

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 22350 221326Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 ITFE-00 IO-10 /083 W

----- 083656

R 221037Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 22350

CINCPAC

ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH LAOS

REF: BANGKOK 22256

SUMMARY: THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELEASED STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21 SETTING OUT ITS VERSION OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RE-
LATIONS WITH NEW LAO GOVERNMENT. TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED IN
SEPTEL. IT NOTES IN LARTICULAR THAT LAO GOVERNMENT HAS RE-
JECTED THAI SUGGESTION (REFTEL) FOR JOINT NAVAL PATROLS ON
MEKONG RIVER AS MEANS OF AVOIDING ARMED CLASHES ALONG BOUNDARY
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN FEATURE OF PAST FEW WEEKS.
STATEMENT, WHICH WAS REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN BANGKOK PRESS
OCT. 22, IS POLITE BUT FIRM IN TONE, CLEARLY PLACING BLAME
ON LAOTION GOVERNMENT FOR FAILURE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO MEETING OCTOBER 20 BETWEEN FOREIGN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 22350 221326Z

MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AND LAO AMBASSADOR TO THAI-

LAND OUAN SNITH (REFTEL), THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RELEASED ON OCT. 21 FOUR AND ONE-HALF PAGE STATEMENT ON
THAI-LAO RELATIONS. IT STATES THAT LAOS HAS REJECTED
THAI PROPOSAL FOR JOINT NAVAL PATROLS ON MEKONG RIVER AS
MEANS OF CALMING SITUATION RESULTING FROM RECENT ARMED
CLASHES ALONG BOUNDARY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IT DETAILS
NUMEROUS THAI EFFORTS TO HAVE CONTACT WITH PGNU AND EXCHANGE
VIEWS ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST BUT NOTES THAT RTG HAS
NEVER RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSE TO ANY OF ITS PROPOSALS.
RTG ADVISES LAO TO SET ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER FIRST RATHER
THAN ACCUSR THAILAND OF GANGING UP WITH REFUGEES TO COMMIT
UNFRIENDLY ACTS AGAINST LAOS. STATEMENT CONCLUDES WITH
COMMENT (ADDED JUST BEFORE RELEASE) THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
CHATCHAI REMINDED LAO AMBASSADOR OF IMPORTANCE RTG ATTACHES
TO MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS OF JOINT THAI-LAO COMMITTEE
AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH A MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE
WHEN PGNU FOREIGN MINISTER PHOU MI VONGVICHIT IS IN
VIENTIANE.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT WITH EMBOFF OCT. 22 THEP
THEWAKUN, CHIEF OF MFA SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION, SAID THAT
STATEMENT WAS INTENDED TO BE "MATTER OF FACT" EXPOSITION
OF THAI POINT OF VIEW. BASED ON THAI "RIGHT OF REPLY" TO
FREQUENT LAO CHARGES, IT WAS CONSIDERED BY MFA TO BE
NEITHER APOLOGETIC NOR ABRASIVE. INSTEAD, THEP SAID, TONE
WAS IN LINE WITH CHATCHAI'S OCT. 20 REMARKS TO LAO AMBASSADOR.

THEP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BARRAGE OF UNFRIENDLY WORDS FROM
LAO SIDE WILL NOT KNUE MUCH LONGER BECAUSE LAO WILL
COME TO REALIZE HOW DEPENDENT THEY ARE ON THAILAND'S GOOD
WILL.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT BEING TRANS-
MITTED IN SEPTEL. SEEMS CURIOUS THAT STATEMENT ISSUED
ONLY IN THAI AND THAT MFA ENGLISH TRANSLATION WILL NOT BE
AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. WHILE TONE OF STATEMENT WAS
POLITE, ITS SUBSTANCE WAS QUITE FIRM, AND OUR INITIAL
IMPRESSION IS THAT IT WILL DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE PRESENT
COOL STATE OF THAI-LAO RELATIONS.

WHITEHOUSE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 22350 221326Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PAPERS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO22350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750366-0885
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751030/aaaabaqn.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 22256
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH LAOS
TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH, (CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN), (OUAN SNITH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006